

Annex 5f: Cllr R Gough Response

From: Cllr. Gough, R.
Sent: 09 January 2019
Subject: Community Centres

Rob I have thinking about some of the decisions we are being asked to take relating to the budget proposals and I know you will remind me that the decision as been made on what I am about to raise now .We need to be very careful what financial pressures we apply to Community Centres especially as the people making the proposals are not fully aware of how our Community Centres are run and what they actually do . I can only talk about Llanbradach which I am Chairman and been a committee member for 30 years .The centres are run by volunteers the manage the accounts ,arrange bookings organise fund raising events to help towards running cost and also identify funding to carry out improvements ,repairs and maintenance that is the councils responsibility .Last year we raised £5000 pounds and paid to have all the lights up graded to LED .We are currently seeking funding to install solar pals to the roof .In the past we raised over a £110,000.00 to install a commercial grade kitchen .We have also paid for repairs and decoration of the centre .However over the years support from the council as been eroded and it does not sound much reducing the caretakers hours by 1hour but this is the second occasion this as happened and we wonder what next .I f we were asked to pay the total cost of the caretaker then I would recommend to the committee that we hand the centre back to the council to run and that would cost the far more We already pay the wages and on costs for the weekend care taker and there is only a limit in how much you can increase the rental charges .I would suggest that the officers who make these recommendations actually visit some centres and speak the Volunteers who run them .Rob